

The individual I want to talk about is SSGT Phillip Jordan who was 42 years of age. He lived in Enfield with his wife Amanda and their 6-year-old son Tyler. His devotion to his country caused him to enlist in the Marines some 15 years ago as a private. Sergeant Jordan quickly advanced in the ranks to become a gunnery sergeant.

In 1991, he served in his first combat mission as a platoon leader in Operation Desert Storm, the first Persian Gulf war. After that conflict, Sergeant Jordan was based at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina before becoming a drill sergeant at Parris Island, SC. For 3 years he taught countless new recruits how to become U.S. marines. Few were better suited for the task—friends, family and his marine colleagues referred to Sergeant Jordan as a “Marine’s Marine” for his can-do professional attitude. Just before he was shipped out in January to serve in the second Persian Gulf war, Sergeant Jordan was asked how he felt about once again being called to serve in combat. His response was: “This is what I do. That’s my job.”

He did that job with unflinching valor. Phillip Jordan was much more than just a fine marine. He was an incredibly fine, loving husband and remarkable father. Amanda Jordan described her husband as a caring and loving man who would go out of his way to do a favor for anyone at all. Each and every Sunday when he was home, he would make his family a homemade breakfast, right down to the flowers and fresh-squeezed orange juice. While stationed overseas, letters home always included two parts, one that began “Dear Amanda” and the other began “Dear Tyler” so that Tyler would have a letter of his own. Tyler certainly read those letters. He says he wants to grow up to be a marine some day, just like his father. There would be, perhaps, no more fitting tribute to a man who showed such tremendous dedication and devotion to his family and his Nation.

Phillip Jordan’s friends liked to call him “Gump,” after the movie *Forrest Gump*, for his eternal optimism. Tragically, in times of war, such optimism is not always rewarded. We, as a Nation, can be assured a victory in this conflict and any others which may challenge us down the line, because we know our fighting forces are made up of men and women who share Phillip Jordan’s sense of commitment and strength of character. We must always be mindful of the price they and their loved ones have paid for our freedom and our security, especially those like Phillip Jordan who paid the highest price of all.

Phillip Jordan was not the first casualty of this war and regrettably he will not be the last. It is important for all of us at this moment in time to reach out to the many families who have an empty chair at their dinner table because a father or mother, brother, sister, son, or daughter has

been called to serve their Nation in a distant land. These families need our support more now than ever.

Young Tyler Jordan was asked the other day about his dad. He said he was confident his father was the best marine in Heaven.

On behalf of the Senate, I thank Phillip Jordan for his service to America, and extend the deepest sympathies, not only of my family but also of all of the Senate, to express our condolences to Amanda and Tyler Jordan and to that family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 28, 2001 in New York, NY. A Yemeni man was badly beaten in the Bronx while working at his newsstand. Three local men allegedly yelled, “You Arabs get out of my neighborhood—we hate Arabs! This is war!” before dragging him outside and hitting him in the head with a bottle.

I believe that Government’s first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 88TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today people around the world are pausing to remember and honor the victims of the Armenian genocide, which began 88 years ago in what is now Turkey. Be-

tween 1915 and 1923, one-and-a-half million Armenians—roughly 60 percent of the total Armenian population—were systematically murdered at the hands of agents of the Ottoman Empire, and hundreds of thousands more were forced to leave their homes. At that time, the word “genocide” had not yet entered our vocabulary. Now, 88 years later, this brutal episode of violence against the Armenian people is considered to have been the first, but unfortunately not the last, genocide of the 20th century.

Two decades later, in 1939, as Adolph Hitler, confident that history would exonerate him, prepared to send his armies into Poland with instructions to slaughter people indiscriminately and without mercy, he rhetorically asked his advisers: “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?” That is precisely why I speak today, and every year on this date, to honor the Armenian people who lost their lives nearly a century ago and to remind the American people that the capacity for violence and hate is still prevalent in our world today.

Just in the last decade, we have seen systematic efforts to extinguish people because of their ethnicity in Bosnia, Rwanda, and Kosovo. Last year the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe noted a “sharp escalation” of anti-Semitic violence in Europe. Apparently, even lessons as searing and tragic as those of the Holocaust can be forgotten if we do not remain vigilant in our efforts to remember them.

Last year, as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, I had the opportunity to visit the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, which is setting groundbreaking legal precedents with regard to the treatment of genocide. Through such tribunals, the international community should send a powerful message to would-be mass-murderers that such horrific acts will not go unpunished. Since I became a member of the U.S. Senate, I have striven to make protection of basic human rights, and accountability for such atrocities, cornerstones of U.S. foreign policy, and I will continue to do so as long as I am here.

Today, we remember the men, women and children who perished in the Armenian genocide, because to forget them, or any of the countless millions who have been murdered because of their ethnicity over the past century, would be to invite such tragic episodes to be repeated.

PROTECTING CHILDREN AGAINST CRIME ACT OF 2003

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, as you know, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and this week is National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Furthermore, just last week, I joined with my friends and colleagues, Senators LINCOLN and SHELBY, in announcing our creation of a new, bipartisan Senate